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Industrial Infrastructure Key to Reducing Unemployment, Expanding Exports, Beradar Says

KABUL: Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, has underscored the strategic importance of expanding Afghanistan's industrial infrastructure, saying investment in the sector is vital for reducing unemployment, increasing exports, and transforming the country into a production-based economy.Beradar made the remarks during the inauguration ceremony of the construction of the second Jabal Saraj cement plant in Parwan province, where he described the project as a significant milestone in Afghanistan's industrial development and economic self-reliance, according to a statement from the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs the other day."Afghanistan possesses abundant natural resources and a capable workforce, providing a strong foundation for industrial expansion. The government," he said, adding that the Islamic Emirate is committed to shifting the national economy from one largely dependent on imports to one driven by domestic production and exports through sustained investment in manufacturing and industrial projects.Highlighting the importance of the cement industry, Beradar said domestic production of construction materials is essential for implementing major infrastructure projects, reducing dependence on imported cement, preventing the outflow of foreign currency, and creating thousands of employment opportunities for Afghan citizens.

The deputy prime minister also encouraged domestic and foreign investors to invest in Afghanistan's industrial sector, citing improved nationwide security, reduced corruption, streamlined administrative procedures, and a more favourable investment environment. He stressed that effective management of the country's natural resources, together with close cooperation between the government, the private sector, and the public, will be crucial to achieving sustainable economic growth.The second Jabal Saraj cement plant is expected to have a production capacity of 5,000 tons of cement per day and generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Officials say the project will play an important role in strengthening Afghanistan's construction industry and advancing the country's long-term goal of achieving self-sufficiency in cement production.

The Kabul Times

Islamic Emirate to Restore Idle Factories, Expand Industrial Production, Hanafi Says

KABUL: Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi has said that the Islamic Emirate will restore and reactivate idle factories across the country as part of broader efforts to accelerate economic development and industrial growth, according to a statement from Arg the other day. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the second Jabal Saraj cement plant in Parwan province, Hanafi said the government has already taken significant steps to revive inactive industries and establish new manufacturing facilities that generate employment opportunities, according to the statement.

He said the new cement factory has been designed according to modern engineering standards and will utilize advanced automated production systems to improve efficiency and output quality.

Hanafi added that once operational, the facility will not only increase domestic cement production but also help reduce market prices and contribute to greater stability in Afghanistan's construction sector.

The deputy PM said that the project reflects the government's long-term strategy to strengthen national industries, reduce reliance on imports, and promote sustainable economic growth.

The Kabul Times

Trade Opportunities to Be Supported for Afghan Exporters, Azizi Says

KABUL: The Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Islamic Emirate, Nooruddin Azizi, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the country's export sector, announcing that the ministry is actively working to establish export processing centers in Kabul and across the country's major economic zones to facilitate trade and improve services for exporters.

The remarks came during a meeting with Afghan exporters shipping goods to member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the ministry said in a statement the other day.

The discussion focused on expanding Afghanistan's export capacity, improving trade infrastructure, and addressing the needs of businesses seeking greater access to regional markets.

Azizi said the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is giving high priority to the establishment of modern export processing centers, describing the initiative as a key step toward increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of Afghan exports.

He noted that once completed, the centers will provide exporters with improved logistical, processing, and administrative services, making it easier for Afghan products to reach

international markets.

The minister highlighted growing trade opportunities with the Eurasian Economic Union, stating that member countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan, have granted preferential tariff treatment to Afghan export goods.

The preferential trade arrangements are expected to improve the competitiveness of Afghan products and encourage higher export volumes to the regional bloc, the statement said.

The development of export infrastructure, combined with expanded market access through preferential tariffs, reflects the government's broader strategy to strengthen regional economic integration, diversify export destinations, and support the sustainable growth of Afghanistan's private sector and national economy, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Afghan Territory Will Not Be Used Against Any Country, Mujahid

KABUL: Zabihullah Mujahid, the Spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, has firmly rejected Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's claims that terrorist groups are operating from Afghanistan, reiterating that Afghan territory will not be used to threaten the security of any other country.

In response to the remarks, Mujahid described the allegations as baseless and without evidence, according to TOLOnews on Friday.

He emphasized that the Islamic Emirate does not permit any foreign armed groups to operate inside Afghanistan or use the country's soil to carry out activities against neighboring states or any other nation.

Mujahid reaffirmed the Islamic Emirate's commitment to maintaining national security and adhering to its policy of preventing Afghan territory from being used to undermine regional peace and stability.The spokesman said Afghanistan remains committed to fostering constructive relations with neighboring countries based on mutual respect, non-interference, and cooperation.

The Kabul Times

Kandahar Produces Over 44 Tons of Honey in Spring Harvest

KANDAHAR: 44.4 tons of honey were produced during the current spring harvest season in Kandahar province,

more than doubling last year's output, as the expansion of modern beekeeping farms and continued technical support boosted production across the province, the provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock said in a statement the other day.

Officials attributed the increase to the expansion of standardized beekeeping farms, which rose from 43 to 68, along with continued technical support provided by the agriculture department.

The statement said 68 beekeeping farms are currently operating across Kandahar city and several districts, helping boost production and improve the livelihoods of local beekeepers.

For comparison, only 21 tons of honey were produced during the spring season last year, highlighting significant growth in the sector, the statement added.

Agriculture officials said continued investment in modern beekeeping practices is expected to further strengthen honey production and support rural economic development.

The Kabul Times

Efforts Underway to Link Aqina to Hairatan Corridor, Ministry

KABUL: Efforts were underway to connect Aqina with the strategic Hairatan railway network, as practical work has been started on a 10-kilometer railway extension from Aqina Port to Andkhoy district in Faryab province, aimed at strengthening regional connectivity, facilitating trade, and enhancing the country's railway transport system, the Ministry of Public Works said in a statement on Friday.The project is being implemented at a cost of more than $12 million and represents an important milestone in strengthening the country's railway infrastructure, the statement said."The railway extension will improve domestic and regional transport connectivity, facilitate trade, and enhance cargo movement between northern Afghanistan and neighboring countries," the statement said.The ministry added that linking Aqina with the Hairatan corridor is expected to improve transit efficiency, reduce transportation costs, and strengthen Afghanistan's position as a regional trade hub.The railway project forms part of the government's wider strategy to expand transport infrastructure, boost economic integration, and support long-term national development.

The Kabul Times

Badakhshan Hosts Domestic Products Exhibition to Support Businesses

KABUL: A domestic products exhibition has been opened in Badakhshan province with the aim of promoting locally manufactured goods, encouraging entrepreneurship, and strengthening Afghanistan's domestic production sector, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said in a statement the other day.

Organized under the name "Lajward" by a private company in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the exhibition features 60 exhibition booths showcasing a wide range of Afghan-made products, the statement said.

Officials said the event is intended to expand market opportunities for local producers, strengthen connections between manufacturers and consumers, and encourage investment in domestic industries.

The exhibition also provides entrepreneurs with an opportunity to introduce their products, exchange business experience, and explore new commercial partnerships.The Ministry of Industry and Commerce said supporting domestic production remains one of its key priorities as part of broader efforts to reduce reliance on imports and stimulate sustainable economic growth.**The Kabul Times**

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

A Nation Mourns Its Cricket Star

Under the solemn skies of Kabul, thousands gathered to bid farewell to Shapoor Zadran, a towering figure in Afghanistan's sporting history.

His funeral, attended by athletes, officials, family members, and admirers, was not merely a ceremony of grief but a collective acknowledgment of a man who embodied resilience, humility, and national pride.

Zadran's coffin, carried on the shoulders of mourners to Maranjan Hill, symbolized the weight of his legacy.

His passing at the age of 38, after a battle with cancer, has left a void that resonates far beyond cricket. For more than a decade, between 2009 and 2020, he represented Afghanistan in nearly 80 international matches, claiming 43 wickets in ODIs and 37 in T20Is. These numbers, though impressive, only tell part of the story. His determination and sportsmanship helped elevate Afghanistan's name in world cricket, inspiring millions who saw in him the possibility of triumph against adversity.

Athletes from across disciplines described him as more than a player, he was a symbol of unity and perseverance. His presence on the field was not just about wickets and victories; it was about carrying the hopes of a nation still finding its place in global sport. His humility off the field made him beloved by teammates and fans alike, reinforcing the idea that true greatness lies not only in achievement but in character.

Officials from the Afghanistan Cricket Board and the Ministry of Information and Culture pledged to preserve his legacy through books, documentaries, and cultural works. Such initiatives are vital, for Zadran's story is not only about cricket but about Afghanistan itself, a country where sport has often served as a rare bridge across divisions of ethnicity, language, and geography. His family echoed this sentiment, declaring that he belonged to all Afghans, his achievements uniting people in joy and pride.

Perhaps the most poignant call came from his father, who urged the government and the Cricket Board to name the international stadium under construction in Kabul after his son. It is a proposal that resonates deeply: a stadium bearing Shapoor Zadran's name would stand as a living monument to his contributions, inspiring future generations to pursue excellence with the same spirit he embodied.

In mourning his loss, Afghanistan also celebrates his life. Shapoor Zadran's journey from a young cricketer to an international icon reflects the resilience of a nation striving to make its mark. His absence will be felt on the field, but his legacy will endure in the hearts of millions. As Kabul laid him to rest, it was not only saying goodbye to a player but honoring a hero whose story will continue to inspire long after the final farewell.

Rising from Hardships to Glory: A Story of Success for a Century-old Party

By: Zhao Xing, Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan

On July 1, 2026, the Communist Party of China (CPC) marked its 105th founding anniversary. For the Chinese people, this memorable moment was not only a reflection on the past but also a vision for the future.

At the commemorative gathering, H.E. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, President of the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission, stated: "Over the past 105 years, our Party has remained committed to its original aspiration and founding mission of seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. With a profound understanding of the evolving global landscape and an accurate grasp of the changing principal contradictions facing Chinese society in different historical periods, the Party has united and led the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in unremitting struggle, achieved great accomplishments in the New-Democratic Revolution, socialist revolution and construction, reform and opening up and socialist modernization, and socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era." This important statement summarizes the CPC's endeavors in more than a century and decodes the CPC's success in achieving sustained development and progress for China.

More than a century ago, China was vastly different from what the world beholds today. Beginning in the mid-19th century, the country had been gradually reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society, a poor and weak nation plagued by foreign aggression, national disunity, and social upheaval. At this make-or-break juncture, many patriots with lofty ideals dedicated themselves to seeking a path that could secure independence, strength, and prosperity. Against this backdrop, the CPC was founded in 1921 with only a few dozen members. Today, it has grown to more than 100 million, always connecting the future of China with the destiny of its people. Through long and arduous struggles, the CPC united and guided the Chinese people to realize hard-won national independence, earning both trust and support, and taking on the historic mission of advancing China's rejuvenation.

Upon the founding of the PRC in 1949, the Chinese people, under the industrious leadership of the CPC, embarked on a self-reliant journey to transform an extremely weak economy into an independent and relatively complete industrial system and national economic structure, representing a face-lifting change to China.

With the launch of reform and opening up in the late 1970s, China entered a period of rapid growth. Its economic power, scientific capabilities, and overall national strength reached new heights, living standards improved dramatically, cultural influence expanded, and soft power grew. In 2021, China succeeded in eradicating absolute poverty—a milestone in the nation's history and a remarkable achievement in the global campaign against poverty.

Today, the CPC continues its mission, setting off on a refreshed journey to advance Chinese modernization, pursue high-quality development, and fulfill the people's aspiration for a better life.

Throughout its enterprise, the CPC has persisted in applying scientific theories to understand the world, implementing theoretical innovation to keep its guiding principles abreast with the times and China's actual conditions. It has always gone all out to serve the people, taking their aspiration for a better life as its ultimate goal, and drawing strength from their wisdom and creativity.

The CPC has balanced immediate priorities with long-term development, addressed pressing challenges while maintaining strategic continuity and policy consistency. It has stayed true to China's national conditions while learning from the achievements of human civilizations and pursue mutually benefited cooperation with the international community. It has pressed ahead in the face of adversity, turning risks into opportunities, and strengthened itself through self-renewal, and self-improvement,.

These experiences and wisdom have enabled the CPC, always as the leading core to unite and guide the Chinese people in creating newer and greater historic achievements, becoming the firm bedrock of Chinese modernization.

As President Xi Jinping observed: "History looks kindly on those with resolve, with drive and ambition, and with plenty of guts. History won't wait for the hesitant, the apathetic, or those shy of a challenge." The CPC's 105-year journey has proved that there is no universally applicable model for national development. Each country must choose its own path suited to its national conditions.

Although China and Afghanistan differ in national conditions, both have endured foreign aggression, sustained turmoil, and poverty. Both peoples share a common aspiration for independence, peace, stability, and rejuvenation.

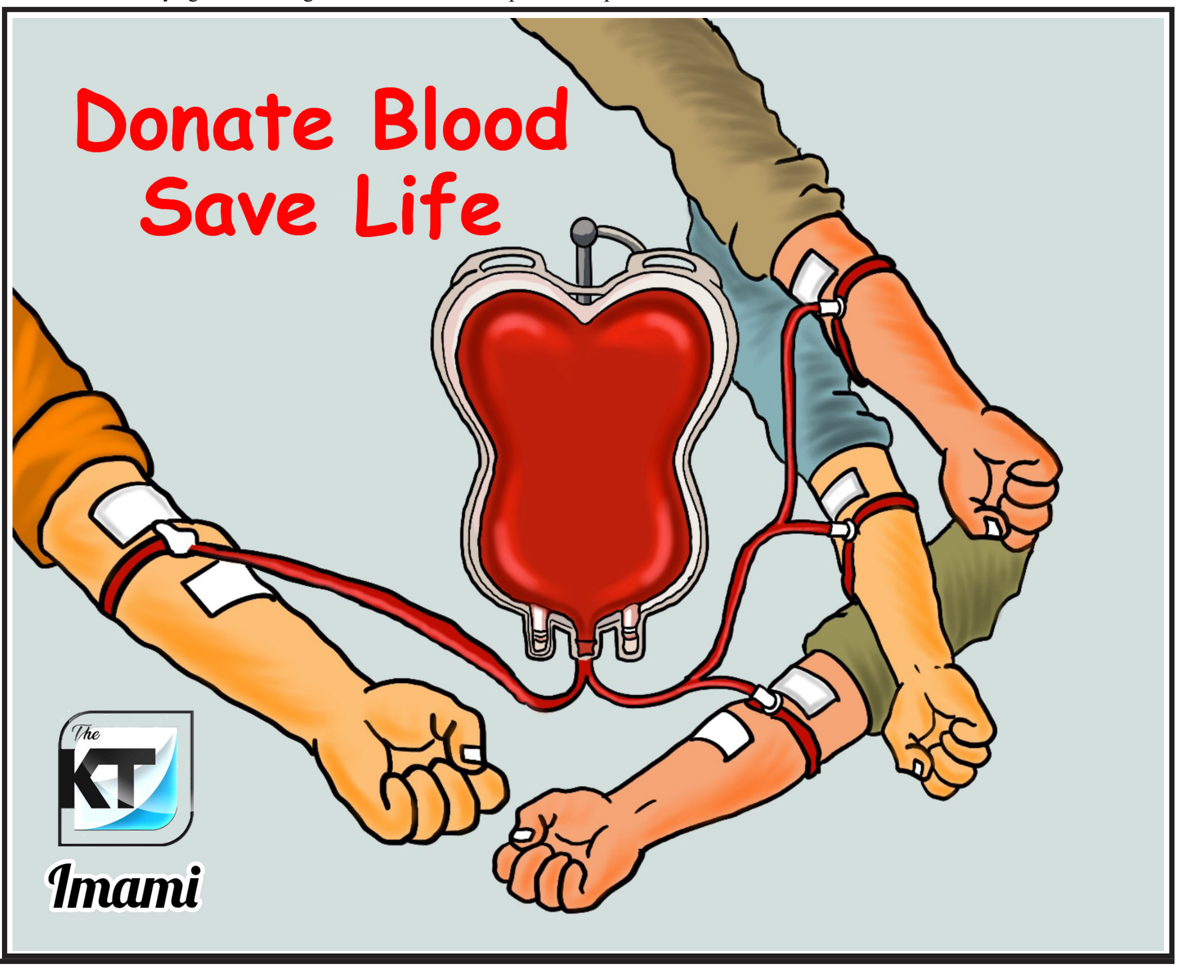
China has maintained a policy toward Afghanistan based on respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, respect for the Afghan people's choices, and respect for religious beliefs and national customs.

China has adhered to principles of non-interference, refraining from selfish interests or spheres of influence.

Guided by the spirit of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, China and Afghanistan have deepened cooperation in trade, infrastructure, and people-to-people exchanges.

China reaffirms that a stable and prosperous Afghanistan serves the fundamental interests of its people and contributes to lasting regional peace.

China has been, is, and will always be ready to work with Afghanistan in seeking development paths suited to national conditions and bringing greater benefits to both peoples.



Industrial Expansion, the Foundation of Afghanistan's Economic Self-Reliance

By: Nesar Ahmad Tareq

For decades, Afghanistan's economic discussions have centered on one fundamental question: how can the country achieve sustainable development while reducing dependence on imports and external assistance? The answer increasingly points toward one strategic priority that has transformed many nations across the world: industrial expansion. A strong industrial sector is more than a collection of factories and production facilities; it is the engine that drives employment, strengthens national productivity, expands exports, encourages innovation, and lays the foundation for long-term economic self-reliance.

Recent efforts to expand Afghanistan's industrial base, including the launch of major manufacturing projects such as the second Jabal Saraj cement plant, reflect a growing emphasis on strengthening domestic production. Such initiatives are important not merely because they increase industrial output, but because they represent a broader vision of building an economy that creates value within the country rather than relying primarily on imported goods.

Throughout modern economic history, no country has achieved lasting prosperity without developing a productive industrial sector. Agriculture remains an essential pillar of economic life, particularly in countries with abundant rural populations, but industrial development enables nations to transform raw materials into higher-value products, create skilled employment, attract investment, and generate stable government revenues. Industry also stimulates growth in transportation, energy, banking, education, communications, and technology, creating a multiplier effect across the entire economy.

Afghanistan possesses many of the ingredients necessary for industrial growth. The country has abundant mineral resources, significant agricultural production, a strategic geographic location connecting Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and China, and a young population capable of contributing to national development. These comparative advantages can become powerful economic assets when supported by investment in manufacturing, infrastructure, energy generation, vocational training, and modern technology.

Industrial expansion has repeatedly proven to be the turning point for countries seeking to move from low-income economies to higher levels of prosperity. Japan's remarkable recovery after the Second World War illustrates this lesson. Facing widespread destruction, limited natural resources, and severe economic hardship, Japan invested heavily in manufacturing, engineering, technology, education, and quality production. Within a few decades, it had become one of the world's leading industrial economies, recognized globally for automobiles, machinery, electronics, and advanced manufacturing.

South Korea provides another compelling example. During the early 1960s, it was one of Asia's poorest countries, with limited industrial capacity and widespread poverty. Through consistent investment in manufacturing, export-oriented industries, technical education, infrastructure, and technological innovation, South Korea transformed itself into one of the world's largest industrial economies. Today, Korean companies compete successfully across global markets in electronics, shipbuilding, automobiles, semiconductors, and heavy industry, providing employment for millions while generating substantial export revenues.

China's economic transformation similarly demonstrates the power of industrialization. Over the past four decades, China invested extensively in industrial parks, transportation networks, energy infrastructure, vocational education, and manufacturing zones. These investments enabled the country to become one of the world's largest manufacturing centers, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty while dramatically expanding exports and strengthening national income. Industrial development became the cornerstone of China's economic rise.

India has also made significant progress by strengthening domestic manufacturing through industrial corridors, technology parks, pharmaceutical production, automotive manufacturing, information technology, and renewable energy industries. While agriculture continues to employ a large segment of the population, industrial expansion has diversified the economy, created millions of jobs, and strengthened India's position in global markets.

Closer to Afghanistan, Türkiye demonstrates how investment in industry can transform a developing economy. Over recent decades, Türkiye has expanded its manufacturing base across construction materials, textiles, machinery, household appliances, defense industries, and automotive production. These industries now contribute significantly to exports, employment, and national economic growth while supporting regional development throughout the country.

The United Arab Emirates presents another important lesson. Although widely recognized for its energy resources, the country has strategically diversified its economy by investing in manufacturing, logistics, aluminium production, aviation, petrochemicals, food processing, and advanced industrial technologies. Diversification has reduced dependence on a single sector while creating sustainable sources of economic growth.

These international experiences share several common principles. Governments created stable investment environments, invested in infrastructure, encouraged private-sector participation, supported education and vocational training, simplified administrative procedures, strengthened legal frameworks, and promoted exports.

Industrial success was not achieved overnight; rather, it resulted from consistent long-term planning, cooperation between public institutions and private investors, and sustained investment in productive sectors.

Afghanistan can draw valuable lessons from these experiences while developing policies suited to its own circumstances. Industrialization does not require copying another country's model. Instead, it requires identifying national strengths and building industries that make effective use of available resources.

The country's cement industry offers an excellent example. Cement is a strategic commodity essential for roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, irrigation systems, housing projects, and other infrastructure. Expanding domestic cement production reduces reliance on imports, saves foreign exchange, stabilizes prices, and supports the construction sector. Every new cement plant also creates employment not only within the factory itself but throughout transportation, mining, engineering, maintenance, logistics, and related industries.Similarly, Afghanistan's agricultural sector offers enormous opportunities for industrial processing. Large quantities of fresh fruits, nuts, saffron,

See P4

Beating the Heat: Staying Safe During Extreme Hot Weather

By:Dr. Bushra Parnian

Extreme heat is becoming one of the biggest health challenges around the world. Every year, millions of people experience heatwaves that last for several days, bringing temperatures that are much higher than normal. Although many people enjoy warm and sunny weather, excessive heat can seriously affect human health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), extreme heat is responsible for thousands of preventable illnesses and deaths every year, and climate change is making heatwaves more frequent, longer, and more intense. Because of this, learning how to protect ourselves and others during very hot weather has become more important than ever.

The human body naturally works hard to maintain a healthy internal temperature. Normally, it cools itself by producing sweat, which evaporates from the skin and removes excess heat. However, when temperatures become extremely high or humidity increases, this cooling process becomes less effective. As a result, body temperature begins to rise, placing extra stress on the heart, kidneys, lungs, and other vital organs. According to the WHO, prolonged exposure to excessive heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, or even heatstroke, which is a life-threatening medical emergency requiring immediate treatment.

Anyone can become ill because of extreme heat, but some groups face a much greater risk than others. The WHO explains that older adults, infants, young children, pregnant women, and people living with heart, lung, or kidney diseases are especially vulnerable. Their bodies often have more difficulty regulating temperature, making them more likely to develop heat-related illnesses.

Outdoor workers, athletes, farmers, and construction workers are also at greater risk because they spend long hours under direct sunlight.

People living alone or those without access to cooling systems may also struggle during heatwaves.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself is by staying well hydrated. According to the WHO, people should drink water regularly instead of waiting until they feel thirsty because thirst is often a sign that the body has already lost a significant amount of water.

During hot weather, drinking water throughout the day helps replace the fluids lost through sweating and allows the body to cool itself more efficiently. Carrying a reusable water bottle can make it easier to remember to drink enough water.

The WHO also advises limiting alcohol and excessive caffeine because these drinks may increase dehydration, especially during periods of extreme heat.

Reducing exposure to direct sunlight is another important way to stay safe. The WHO recommends avoiding outdoor activities during the hottest hours of the day whenever possible, usually from late morning until late afternoon. If going outside is necessary, spending time in shaded areas can greatly reduce the body's exposure to heat. Even short breaks in cool places allow the body to recover. Following weather forecasts and official heat warnings also helps people prepare for dangerously high temperatures before they become a serious threat.

The clothes we wear can also affect how well our bodies stay cool. The WHO recommends wearing lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-coloured clothing because these materials allow air to circulate and reflect sunlight instead of absorbing it. Wearing a wide-brimmed hat provides additional protection by shading the face and neck from direct sunlight. Sunscreen should also be applied to exposed skin to reduce the risk of sunburn, which can make it even harder for the body to regulate its temperature.

Keeping homes cool is just as important as protecting ourselves outdoors. According to the WHO, closing curtains or blinds during the daytime helps block sunlight from entering the house and keeps indoor temperatures lower. Windows should remain closed while the outdoor air is hotter than the indoor air, but they can be opened later in the evening when temperatures begin to fall. Turning off unnecessary lights and electrical appliances can also reduce indoor heat. Although electric fans can provide comfort, the WHO notes that fans alone are not enough during extremely high temperatures. In such situations, taking cool showers or spending time in air-conditioned buildings provides much better protection against overheating.Cooling the body directly is another simple yet effective method.

The WHO recommends taking a cool shower or bath whenever possible because it quickly lowers body temperature.

If this is not possible, placing a damp towel on the neck, forehead, or wrists can also provide relief.

Wearing slightly damp clothing or gently spraying cool water on the skin may help people remain comfortable during very hot days.

These simple techniques are often enough to prevent mild heat stress from becoming a more serious medical problem.

Children and pets require constant attention during hot weather because they can become overheated much more quickly than adults.

One of the strongest messages from the WHO is that children or animals should never be left inside parked vehicles, even for a few minutes.

The temperature inside a closed car can rise rapidly and become life-threatening in a very short time. Parents should also make sure children drink enough water, wear lightweight clothing, and avoid playing outdoors during the hottest part of the day.

Extreme heat is not only an individual concern but also a community responsibility. The WHO encourages people to check regularly on older relatives, neighbours, friends, and anyone living alone during heatwaves. Many vulnerable individuals may not recognize the early signs of heat illness or may be unable to seek help themselves. A simple visit, phone call, or offer of assistance can prevent serious illness and even save lives.

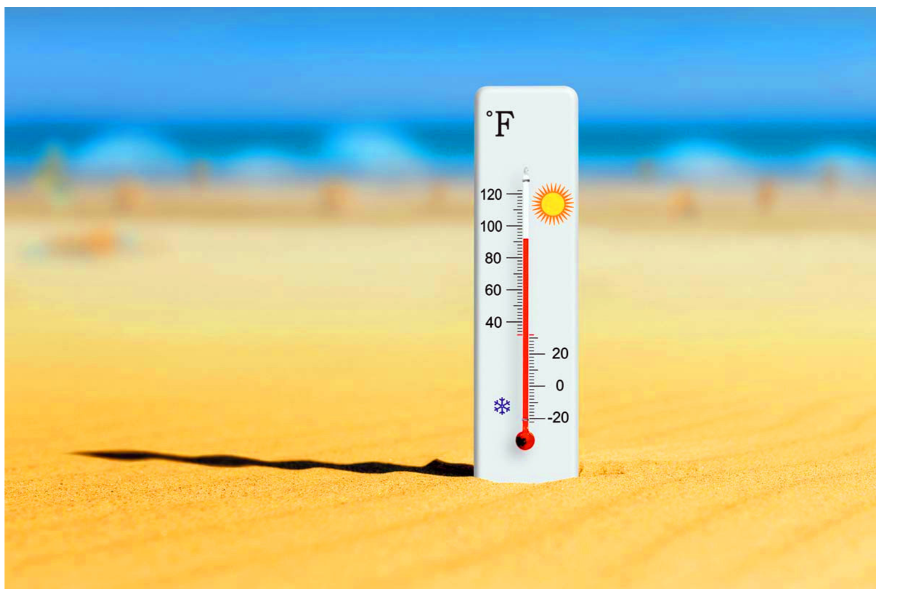
Recognizing the symptoms of heat-related illness is extremely important. According to the WHO, dizziness, headache, nausea, weakness, muscle cramps, excessive sweating, and unusual tiredness are early signs that the body is struggling with the heat.

If these symptoms appear, the person should immediately move to a cooler place, drink water slowly, loosen tight clothing, and rest. However, if someone becomes confused, loses consciousness, develops very hot skin, or stops sweating despite being overheated, these are signs of heatstroke.

The WHO stresses that heatstroke is a medical emergency and requires immediate medical care because delaying treatment can result in permanent organ damage or death.

Heatwaves also affect workplaces around the world. Millions of people work outdoors in construction, agriculture, transportation, and other physically demanding jobs.

According to the WHO, employers should provide drinking water, shaded rest areas, regular breaks, and flexible working hours whenever possible during periods of extreme heat.



These simple measures not only protect workers' health but also reduce accidents caused by fatigue and dehydration.

In conclusion, extreme heat is a serious public health issue that deserves everyone's attention.

As climate change continues to increase global temperatures, heatwaves are expected to become even more common in the future.

Fortunately, many heat-related illnesses can be prevented by following simple advice. According to the World Health Organization, drinking water regularly, wearing light clothing, staying in cool places, avoiding direct sunlight during the hottest hours, and checking on vulnerable family members and neighbours are among the most effective ways to stay safe.

By following these recommendations and looking after one another, individuals and communities can reduce the health risks of extreme heat and enjoy the summer more safely.

Humanitarian Aids Should Be Mobilized to Improve Living Conditions

By: Mashal Noori

Following 20 years of international aids to Afghanistan, there has been no significant improvement in the living condition of the Afghan population.

It is all because the aids have not been spent on development projects in the country.

Although humanitarian assistance alone is not going to be sufficient to address the extensive challenges that the people of Afghanistan are facing, it can be effective and help improve the living condition of the population if spent on development projects in the country.

With the Islamic Emirate takeover in mid-August, the IEA leadership has urged the United Nations agencies and other international organization operating in Afghanistan to channel their aids to development projects to help improve the living condition of the Afghan people in the country.

The Islamic Emirate leadership has once again called on the international and humanitarian partners operating in Afghanistan to mobilize their assistance for development of the country. Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in his recent meeting with the United Nations representatives has raised the issue, urging the United Nations and other international organizations to channel their assistance towards development projects to help provide housing, schools, electricity, clean water, employment and other essential services for returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). He reiterated the call at a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Saleh in Kabul on Wednesday, according to a statement from his office.

The statement added that the two sides discussed the situation of Afghan refugees, humanitarian and development assistance for returning refugees, and future cooperation in support of the Afghan people.

Mullah Baradar praised the United Nations and international organizations for providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees, stressing that the United Nations and international organizations operating in the country should prioritize development assistance so that housing, schools, electricity, clean water, employment opportunities and other basic services could be provided for returning refugees and internally displaced Afghans.

Although some aid assistance to development projects in Afghanistan is currently channeled through the United Nations, multilateral development banks like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), and some international NGOs, the number of such projects are very few and cannot address the ongoing challenges facing the country and its people.

To fully channel their aid and assistance to development projects, the UN agencies and other international organizations should fully coordinate their assistance with Afghanistan authorities to identify the right development project be implemented for the improvement of the living condition in the country.

With the Islamic Emirate takeover in mid-August 2021, continued efforts have been made in the development sector in the country.

The world, particularly the United Nations agencies and international organizations are also praising the efforts of the Islamic Emirate in the development sector.

Based on reports, thousands of small and major development projects have been implemented across the country in the past five years.

It is time that a greater international assistance should be mobilized for the development of Afghanistan and the community to help improve the living conditions of the Afghan people.

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Afghan XI Register Emphatic 199-Run Victory Over Uzbekistan in Friendly T20

The Afghan XI produced a commanding all-round display to register a comprehensive 199-run victory over the Uzbekistan National Cricket Team in a one-off friendly T20 match played on Friday morning at the Rahmat Wali Masroor Cricket Ground in Khost Province.

After winning the toss, Uzbekistan opted to field first, but the decision proved costly as the Afghan batters dominated from the outset. The hosts piled up an imposing 323 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs, leaving the visitors with a daunting target of 324.

Hasan Eisakhil starred with a brilliant 120, anchoring the innings with an explosive century. He received valuable support from Imran Mir, who struck 74, while Faisal Khan Shinozada added 31 and Noor Rahman chipped in with 29 to power Afghanistan to one of the highest totals in a friendly T20 fixture.

Afghanistan carried the same intensity into the second innings, producing a disciplined bowling performance that dismissed Uzbekistan well short of the target. Naseer Khan Maroofkhel, Imran Mir, and Wafadar Momand claimed two wickets each, while Faridoon Dawoodzai also contributed with a wicket. Eisakhil was

deservedly named Player of the Match for his outstanding century and overall impact.

The match was organized under the Cricket Development Support Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and the Cricket Federation of Uzbekistan in December 2025. The partnership aims to strengthen cricket development in Uzbekistan through technical assistance, coaching, and player development.

In a show of sportsmanship, Ibrahim Zadran visited the Uzbekistan team after the match, shared words of encouragement, and welcomed them to Afghanistan. He emphasized the importance of future tours in promoting greater cooperation and friendship between the two cricketing nations.

The Kabul Times

Sports Leadership Visits Helmand Football Zonal Tournament, Supports Young Talents

The leadership of Afghanistan's sports authorities has visited the ongoing Football Zonal Tournament being hosted by Helmand province, expressing support for the development of football and encouraging young athletes participating in the competition.The delegation was led by the Director General of the National Olympic Committee, Physical Education and Sports, Mawlavi Ahmadullah Wasiq.

He was accompanied by senior officials, including Technical and Professional Deputy Hafiz Ahmad Jan Zadran, Football Federation President Mohammad Yousuf Kargar, Olympic Affairs Director Dad Mohammad Payenda Akhtari, and several other sports officials.

Upon their arrival, the delegation received a warm welcome from local sports officials, athletes, and football enthusiasts.

A number of players and representatives from participating teams attended the welcoming ceremony, highlighting the importance of the tournament in promoting unity and sporting talent among Afghanistan's youth.During the visit, Wasiq and the accompanying delegation closely watched the match between Omar Zwak Herat and Barak FC Helmand. In an exciting contest, the Herat-based team secured a 2-0 victory over the host side.The officials praised the efforts of athletes, organizers, and local authorities for successfully holding the tournament, emphasizing that such competitions play a vital role in discovering new football talents and strengthening sports development across the country.**The Kabul Times**

ICC, Cricket Boards, and Players Mourn the Passing of Afghanistan Cricket Legend Shapoor Zadran

The global cricket community has come together to honor former Afghanistan fast bowler Shapoor Zadran, remembering him as one of the key figures who helped lay the foundation for Afghanistan's rise in international cricket.

Zadran passed away on Tuesday in New Delhi, India, after a prolonged illness. His funeral was held on Thursday at Eidgah Mosque in Kabul, where family members, friends, former teammates, and thousands of mourners gathered to pay their final respects.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), national cricket boards, current and former players, and cricket officials expressed deep sorrow over his passing, highlighting his dedication and valuable contribution to the sport.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah described Zadran as one of Afghanistan's cricket heroes, praising his memorable performance against Scotland in the 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup. Shah said Zadran's all-round contribution in that historic match would remain one of the important moments in Afghanistan's cricket history.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) also paid tribute to Zadran, calling him a founding figure of Afghan cricket. The board said his passion, commitment, and tireless efforts played an important role in the growth of the sport in the country.

Former Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, former India captain Ravi Shastri, Pakistan fast-bowling legend Shoaib Akhtar, and former Sri Lankan all-rounder Angelo Mathews were among those who remembered Zadran's remarkable career and influence.

Zadran represented Afghanistan in 44 ODIs, 36 T20 internationals, and one Test match, taking 43 ODI wickets and 37 T20I wickets. He played a historic role in Afghanistan's first-ever World Cup victory against Scotland in 2015, finishing as the team's leading wicket-taker in the tournament.

Retired from international cricket in 2020 and from all formats in 2025, Shapoor Zadran will be remembered as one of the pioneers who helped transform Afghanistan into a respected force in world cricket. **The Kabul Times**

Land Distribution for Returnees Continues as Over 2,000 Plots Allocated in Five Days, Fitrat

KABUL: Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, the Deputy Spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, said in a statement the other day that over 2,000 residential land plots were distributed to Afghan returnees across six provinces over the past five days.Fitrat said in an audio statement that the land plots were allocated in Nangarhar, Balkh, Faryab, Farah, Nimroz, and Helmand provinces to support the long-term resettlement of returning Afghan families.According to Fitrat, nearly 58,000 land plots have so far been distributed nationwide under the government's resettlement program, with the allocation process continuing in other provinces.

Meanwhile, the High Commission for Addressing Returnees' Problems reported that nearly 600 Afghan migrant families returned from Iran and Pakistan on the previous day. The commission said 517 families entered through Torkham, 42 through Spin Boldak, seven through Islam Qala, and two through Bahramcha in Helmand province.The development comes as Pakistan has announced the expiration of the deadline for Afghan nationals without valid visas, warning that individuals lacking legal documentation will now face arrest, a move expected to increase the number of returnees in the coming weeks.**The Kabul Times**

Kabul, Delhi Discuss Expanding Agricultural, Rural Development Cooperation

KABUL: The country's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mawlavi Ataullah Omari, in a meeting with Shaji K. V., Chairman of India's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, rural development, and technical capacity-building.

The meeting took place during Omari's official visit to India and explored opportunities to expand collaboration in agricultural development, improve rural livelihoods, enhance technical expertise, and deepen institutional cooperation between the two countries, the ministry said in a statement on Friday.Omari highlighted the importance of modernizing Afghanistan's agricultural sector and improving conditions in rural communities, stressing that stronger technical capacities and the adoption of successful international experiences are essential for achieving sustainable agricultural development.Both sides emphasized the importance of continued cooperation in agricultural innovation, knowledge exchange, and rural development initiatives aimed at improving productivity, supporting farmers, and promoting long-term food security and economic growth.

The Kabul Times

Herat Exports 117 Tons of Fresh Fruit During First Quarter

HERAT: Herat exported 117 tons of fresh fruit to several Asian, Arab, and regional markets during the first quarter of the current solar year, the provincial Chamber of Commerce and Investment said in a statement the other day.The exports reflect continued demand for Afghan agricultural products and demonstrate the province's growing contribution to the country's export sector, the statement said.

"Improving trade routes and expanding access to international markets remain important priorities for increasing agricultural exports," the provincial officials said, expressing optimism that export volumes will continue to grow during the upcoming harvest seasons as production increases.

Agricultural exports remain one of Afghanistan's key sources of foreign trade and rural economic activity.

The Kabul Times

From P3

Industrial Expansion, the Foundation...

medicinal plants, and other agricultural products can generate significantly greater economic value when processed domestically rather than exported in raw form. Food processing factories, packaging facilities, cold storage centers, and quality-control laboratories can increase exports while improving farmers' incomes and reducing post-harvest losses.

Mining also represents considerable industrial potential. Afghanistan possesses significant deposits of copper, iron ore, lithium, rare earth elements, marble, gemstones, coal, and other minerals. Processing these resources inside the country instead of exporting them in raw form would create higher-value industries, increase government revenues, and expand skilled employment opportunities. Developing mineral processing industries requires careful planning, environmental responsibility, modern technology, and qualified technical personnel, but the long-term economic benefits can be substantial.

Industrial development also depends heavily on reliable energy. Expanding electricity generation through hydropower, solar energy, wind energy, natural gas, and coal-based facilities can provide industries with the stable power supply necessary for continuous production. Ongoing investments in energy infrastructure therefore directly support broader industrial growth.

Transportation infrastructure is equally important. Modern highways, railways, dry ports, airports, and logistics centers reduce transportation costs, improve supply chains, and facilitate regional trade. Afghanistan's strategic location offers considerable opportunities to become an important regional transit and commercial hub linking neighboring markets.

Small and medium-sized enterprises deserve equal attention alongside large industrial projects. Many successful industrial economies grew by supporting thousands of small manufacturers producing textiles, furniture, food products, construction materials, leather goods, handicrafts, pharmaceuticals, plastics, and metal products. Access to finance, technical training, business advisory services, and simplified licensing procedures can enable Afghan entrepreneurs to expand production and compete more effectively in domestic and international markets.

Human capital remains perhaps the most valuable resource for industrial development. Technical institutes, vocational schools, engineering programs, and partnerships between educational institutions and industries can prepare young Afghans with the practical skills required in modern manufacturing. Skilled workers increase productivity, improve product quality, encourage innovation, and strengthen competitiveness.Women's participation in appropriate sectors of industry can also contribute positively to economic development by expanding the productive workforce, particularly in areas such as food processing, textiles, handicrafts, packaging, quality control, and small-scale manufacturing. Many successful economies have benefited from harnessing the productive potential of all segments of society.

Foreign investment can further accelerate industrial expansion when supported by transparent regulations, efficient administrative procedures, legal certainty, and mutually beneficial partnerships. International investors often bring not only financial resources but also advanced technologies, management expertise, production techniques, and access to international markets. Such partnerships can strengthen domestic industrial capacity while creating employment and improving technical skills.

Export diversification is another essential objective. Expanding industrial production enables Afghanistan to export a wider range of manufactured products rather than relying primarily on raw materials and agricultural commodities. Greater export diversity strengthens economic resilience by reducing vulnerability to fluctuations in individual markets or products.Industrialization also contributes to national resilience. Countries with diversified manufacturing sectors are generally better positioned to withstand external economic shocks because they possess stronger domestic production capabilities and broader sources of income. Self-reliance in key industries enhances economic stability while supporting long-term national development.

The vision of an industrial Afghanistan is ultimately about much more than factories alone. It is about creating dignified employment for young people, strengthening local businesses, encouraging innovation, expanding exports, improving living standards, reducing poverty, increasing government revenues, and building confidence in the country's economic future. Every successful industrial project contributes not only to production but also to broader social and economic progress.

Industrial expansion requires patience, strategic planning, continuous investment, and close cooperation among government institutions, the private sector, financial institutions, educational organizations, and local communities. Sustainable industrial growth is built gradually through consistent policies, sound infrastructure, skilled human resources, technological advancement, and a supportive business environment.

Afghanistan stands at an important moment in its economic journey. With its abundant natural resources, entrepreneurial spirit, strategic geographic location, and expanding infrastructure, the country possesses significant opportunities to strengthen domestic production and build a more diversified economy. Continued investment in manufacturing, energy, transportation, mineral processing, agricultural industries, and human capital can help lay the foundation for sustainable growth.Industrial expansion is not simply an economic policy; it is a long-term national strategy capable of transforming resources into prosperity, creating opportunities for future generations, and strengthening Afghanistan's path toward enduring economic self-reliance.

By maintaining focus on productive investment, encouraging innovation, and learning from successful international experiences while building upon its own unique strengths, Afghanistan can continue moving toward a stronger, more resilient, and increasingly self-sufficient economy.